



# DESMET PUBLIC SCHOOL

EST. 1890

TEACHING • INSPIRING • NURTURING

Greetings Friends and Families of DeSmet,

We are scheduled to be open for class on our regular schedule starting Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The virus was a difficult problem for our school as it ran through the staff. I am sorry that we had to close school down, but out of an abundance of caution and concern for our students and their families we didn't see another option. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Currently the positivity rate in Missoula is hovering just below 19%. That means that roughly 20% of the people tested for Covid-19 have a positive test result. As you may recall New York has closed down their school system with a positivity rate of 3%. These are very scary times for everyone involved. In Canada, two weeks after their Thanksgiving Day, October 12, they had the highest surge since the first outbreak in the spring.

Everyone has been advised to not travel, not attend large gatherings and to wear a mask, how well that advice is heeded will be a direct attribute to our school being able to stay fully open during the holidays. Here are the guidelines we must have to be able to be safe, open and in person:

- If you are going to travel, gather in large groups, visit friends and family, I am asking you to quarantine your child from school until Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- If any member of your family is showing symptoms of being ill, even though the test has not been returned by the clinic, I am requesting that you isolate your child from school and from other students at our school.
- If any member of your family tests positive for the Covid-19 virus, your child is isolated from the school for the 14 day period.
- Students who are sick will be sent home immediately from school.

Thank you for understanding. The hard part of this situation is that there is promise of a vaccine on the horizon, but there is no vaccine today. They will have about 20,000 doses by Christmas, but there are 60,000 frontline workers. It is a two dose regimen, so we can only vaccinate 10,000 frontline works by January. Bottom line is, we are one year away from getting around this in our community. We must be vigilant to remain safe and to protect those we love. It may be hard, but we are DeSmet Strong, hard as iron and tough as nails. We got this!

Thank You Mr. Driessen, Principal